Suspension of construction of a National Highway

*232. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work of four-laning of National Highway No. 1 has been stopped for the present ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and by when it is likely to be recommenced ; and

(c) by what date the stretch between New Delhi and Amritsar is stated for completion?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Out of total length of 456 kms. of National Highway No. 1 between Delhi and Amritsar, 93 kms. is already four-lane. In addition, the work of four-laning has been taken up in a length of 169 kms. In 10 packages. Contractor for one road package in Haryana (length 24.8 kms.) and another bridge package in Punjab has been expelled because of poor progress. Progress in three other road packages in Haryana (length 52·20 kms.) and one bridge package in Punjab is poor because of dispute in the partners of the Joint venture and insufficient mobilisation by the contractor, respectively. Tenders are being reinvited for the road package in Haryana and the same have already been received for the bridge package in Punjab.

The work relating to four-laning of remaining length of 194 kms. has yet not been sanctioned. It is too early to indicate the date of completion.

Border disputes between different States

*233 SHRI A.G. KULKARNI : SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of border disputes between different States after the Mahajan Commission Award and other Awards which were in existence as on 1st March, 1990 : and

(b) whether Government have formulated some guidelines to solve the border problems which are long-standing and are creating social tensions?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED) : (a) Boundary disputes between the following States, invelving territorial claims/ counter claims are pending:—

(1) Maharashthra and Karnataka;

(2) Karnataka and Kerala;

(3) Assam and Nagaland ; and

(4) Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

(b) While no guidelines have been formulated, Government's firm view is that there disputes can be resolved only with the willing cooperation of the State Governments concerned and that towards this and these Central Government will be glad to extend all possible assistance.

Approach of Indo-U S chamber of Commerce to Indian Govt.

*234 DR. BAPU KALDATE: will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Ind-US Chamber of Commerce, Miami, Florica, USA fighting for freedom of religion

in the U.S.A. particularly with regard to justice for Hindu Americans;

(b) whether the said organisation has approached the Government for any legal or financial aid to achieve their objectives; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) Preliminary enquiries have not been able to establish whether or not such a Chamber exists in Miami, Florida.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise

Environmental Pollution by DTC Buses

*235 SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRA KANTBHAN DARE :

DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the DTC buses emit thick smoke and fumes causing a lot of pollution and creating a nuisance for the road users ;

(b) if so, whether any survey about the road-worthiness of these buses is conducted periodically and when it was last conducted and;

(c) what is the number and percentage of DTC buses especially the private buses under DTC operation which continue to emit such thick black smoke as per the last survey and the latest figures available and the steps being taken to eliminate environmental pollution by such buses?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGEOF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P.UNNIKRISHNAN) :

(a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of such complaints.

(b) No such survey has been conducted by the DTC. However, as per the Motor Vechiles Rules, 1989, the inspection regarding road wetthiness and fitness of the vehicles is done on annual basis by the Delhi Administsation. Such inspection is a continuing process and is undertaken as per the turn of the vehicles on expiry of one year period. The private buses under DTC operation also are subjected to such inspection by the Delhi Administration.

(c) No such survey has been conducted by the DTC. The steps being taken by DTC to reduce pollution are:-

(i) Daily check of the buses before these are outsheded from the depot. Buses found emitting thick smoke and fumes are not allowed to go on line.

(ii) Enforcement of routine and periodic maintenance schedules as prescibed by the chassis manufacturers.

(iii) Ensuring timely overhauling and replacement of defective fuel injection pumps, injectors and engines.

(iv) Buses under operation are checked by the operational staff an any bus found emitting excessive smoke is withdrawn from operation for repairs.

(v) Snap checking of buses for smoke with the help of 'Hartridge' smokemeter with the assistance of the staff of Delhi Administration and Ministry of Environment and Forests.